

Armelle Cloche

« MICHELANGELO »
Screenplay Synopsis

Action – Suspense – Drama – Sci Fi

Logline: A dying superhero with miraculous healing powers fights to escape his manipulative maker and live an authentic life.

Tagline: Superheroes can die

Important Note: This synopsis covers only 1/3 of the story. I have worked hard to create something original, and I am withholding “spoilers,” so that you will eventually experience the surprises and plot twists of the screenplay as an audience would.

SUPER: "To the unknown part of us, who wishes to see the light..."

Everyone has a home. Michelangelo lives in a mansion shaped like a tower outside Washington D.C. Everyone has friends and family. Michelangelo is surrounded by paid companions. Everyone has a job. Michelangelo is picked up by helicopters at all hours of the day to go save someone's life. Not just anyone... he helps the type you and I rarely meet. The rich. The powerful. The ones who are *supposed* to shape the world.

Michelangelo is not like you and me. When you first look at MICHELANGELO, 30, you see his torso, a strong sculpted body, lacerated by a dozen scars. Then comes his face. He is, without a doubt, handsome, but not a classic beauty. When he is called to action, when he holds death and illnesses in his own hands, it's *magical*. Michelangelo's entire body radiates with phosphorescent light, a magnetic pole of life. Shimmering like electric-green rivers, his energy transfers into the other person's body. He makes the elderly younger. He cures the sick and injured. He's an extraordinary human being. A powerful healer.

From his tower, every night, alone, he looks out at the world. He could pretty much get anything from the powerful government that employs him. Although he could continue such a life forever... there is a glitch in the system. When our story starts Michelangelo is awakened in the middle of the night to save the AMERICAN PRESIDENT, late 60s, dying from a well-concealed cancer.

It takes Michelangelo seconds to do his job. He can revive whomever he touches. He does what he does perfectly every day. He's always closely monitored by his mentor, DOCTOR JORDAN SAL, 50, a father figure who exudes warmth as well as profound sorrow on his face. But today, as a helicopter takes the men to their next mission, his mentor can't help noticing that Michelangelo's energy has dropped by 8% for the second time in two weeks. He sees it is starting to affect the hero's power to save others.

U.S. VICE PRESIDENT LENART, early 60s, doesn't know how to explain the situation to the president who just got a second chance at life. Confidentially, he puts GENERAL MASSEY, 50s, in charge to gather the country's top scientists and figure out what is going on with Michelangelo. Is their greatest asset in danger? And if so, from what?

After many tests, Dr. Sal, Dr. Levy, and Professors Natatsuka and Grosz can't find anything wrong with Michelangelo's physical health. However, DR. SHEILA BRASINI, in her 50s, a pioneer therapist in self-efficacy and social learning, has her own theory. After three days of studying Michelangelo, she believes that he could be slowing dying from a lack of human connections. In the minimal information she had, as Michelangelo's file is strictly classified, she discovered that Michelangelo has not seen any family members or friends in years. Does he even have any?

Always taking her work and patients to heart, Dr. Brasini asks the president, now aware of the situation, to allow her to take Michelangelo away for a week in order to reconnect him with his past and hopefully stop the progression of his mysterious medical condition. "Let's give Michelangelo one week of normalcy. No work. No rescuing anyone. Let's get him out of that tower and out of his routine."

"That's impossible," replies the president. "Michelangelo's too valuable. If his power falls into the wrong hands, it could mean wars, political chaos--you name it."

In the following days, Michelangelo continues to lose energy and power at an alarming rate and he shockingly suffers his first failure trying to save celebrity rapper, N-RAGE, who had been shot at a concert. He has never failed in 15 years! He has never experienced someone dying in his arms! Now, in a state of emergency, without any other solution in sight, the president makes the difficult decision to allow Dr. Brasini to take Michelangelo back to his birthplace for one week.

Putting her entire reputation on the line, while being followed by over 200 bodyguards and army personnel, Sheila and Michelangelo leave on their trip down memory lane, when Michelangelo was a happy, ordinary teenager. He was born Michael Sayers in New Haven, Connecticut. He had atypical but loving parents, a younger brother and sister. There also was a black-haired teenage girl, ALEX, with unusually deep blue eyes. His first and only known love.

1 hour. That is the time it takes Michelangelo to escape Sheila's carefully tailored plan. How could he try not to escape? This is his chance to find out who he truly is, where he comes from, why he is called Michelangelo, why he is different from others, where his power comes from, and why he has it. As Michelangelo says, "I've only been lucky three times in my life: the day I was born, the day my life was spared in the accident, and today."

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1 hour. That is also the time it takes a SECRET GANG to kidnap Michelangelo during his escape, ending his hope to find the answers that he seeks.

2 hours is the time our story will take you into the life and heart of a superhero who needs to find his own identity in order to give meaning to his powers, his life, and his future. Michelangelo is no superhero like Batman or Superman. He can't fly or turn into a ball of fire. He's not indestructible. If he gets shot, he'll die, just like anyone else. However, he might have the body of a mere mortal, but he has the power of a god who can revive *life*.

His mission won't be easy while being tracked by the omnipotent U.S. government, a dedicated mentor who can't let him go, and MYSTERIOUS VILLAINS wanting to steal his power to control humanity. In his fight for freedom, Michelangelo is helped by the brilliant therapist who's put her whole career at risk to watch over him, a first love that still loves him (though love is forbidden to him), and a CRAZY SCIENTIST reappearing from the past on an super intelligent vessel, with the truth he's been searching for.

Michelangelo has nothing to lose. Besides, how can one truly live without knowing one's true identity and purpose in life?